

DEFENSE SOON WILL BE TAKEN UP

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SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1912.

PLAYGROUNDS FOR RICHMOND.

Playground and recreation activities in Richmond have been put on a firm scientific basis of efficiency by the promise of \$1,000 to be raised by a committee of citizens for the purpose of securing a share of the services of the traveling field secretary of the National Playground Association. The object of his work will be to survey the city and outline a plan for the establishment of recreation centres in the parks and elsewhere. The money to be spent on playgrounds this year will probably be used in maintaining a single centre, equipped and directed in the most modern manner, to serve as an object lesson and model for arousing public sentiment and extending the field of recreational activities. Richmond will share the field secretary's services for a year with Atlanta, Birmingham and Jacksonville, Fla., as these cities have already pledged themselves to furnish part of his salary.

The best result of this proposal will undoubtedly be the awakening of public sentiment to the crying need for such outlets for the city's children. To furnish recreation of the highest form for both children and adults is as much the duty of the municipality as to give pure water and paved streets. The importance attached to the work elsewhere is proved by the figures that six years ago there were sixteen cities offering their citizens such opportunities, while last year 236 cities spent \$4,500,000 and employed 4,000 people in the work. During this period Chicago alone spent \$16,000,000 on recreation centres, and as a plain business proposition, it reduced juvenile delinquency around these spots by over 23 per cent. Yet the average of delinquency in portions of the city without these advantages rose 11 per cent. The money was a good investment in reducing court costs and raising the standard of labor efficiency, without regard to the incalculable physical and moral benefits produced. An interesting sidelight is thrown upon these benefits by the clamor among the best residence districts for similar playgrounds when they discovered that their children were deteriorating, while the so-called slums improved.

Richmond needs education along these lines. She needs to learn that gangs of roughs can be taken from the streets, where they are destined to become criminals, vagrants and useless by-products, and made into good, clean members of society. Above all, she needs to be awakened to the opportunity of making life nobler, cleaner and happier for her residents. Other cities have learned how this can be done. And the men interested in this movement are showing praiseworthy civic spirit in bringing an expert to help the work and to leave behind him an enlightened, active public opinion that will carry it to a fine completion.

SAVING FRANCE FROM HERSELF.

The Franco-Spanish disagreement as to the respective right and sphere of influence of the two nations in Morocco appears to have reached an acute stage, and the French official press of Paris is threatening that if Spain continues intractable France will proceed to organize her protectorate regardless of Madrid. That is easier said than done. At this distance it is impossible to follow all the ins and outs of the controversy. They constitute a tangled skein. To the looker-on some of them appear trifling. One thing, however, seems clear: France, presuming on her compact and deal with Germany, is displaying a good deal of arrogance and inclination to ignore the fact that under the international agreement regarding Morocco, Spain's rights and privileges in the latter's Moroccan sphere are on an equal footing with France's in the French domain of overlordship. Moreover, she appears to be disposed to repudiate a wriggle out of the French Government's commitment to that agreement. If, therefore, Germany, either by implication or in terms, contracted to assure France paramountacy and a free hand in Spain's Moroccan territory without the consent of Spain, she was gambling in very uncertain futures and engaged to deliver goods she did not possess or even have an option upon.

The area of the Spanish protectorate, although comparatively quite limited, is very important, comprising as it does a section of territory, of still somewhat undefined boundaries, in the northwest corner of the Shereefian empire, which has a coast line with valuable harbors on both the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. The back country of the possession is inhabited by fierce, fanatical and warlike tribes, which it will tax the combined resources of France and Spain to control and pacify permanently. The projected railway, most essential to France in developing her undisputed Moroccan preserves and in organizing her protectorate, will have to run across this country. Obviously, there-

default of a friendly working Spanish understanding, and in instances of continued friction between the two parties, the task and position of bringing Morocco fully in the scope of civilization, peace and established order must be indefinitely delayed. Those tribes will be in position to harass France on the one side and Spain on the other, and incite at any time revolt in the very centres of the holdings of both protectors.

In that view alone it is to the interests of both disputants to reach an adjustment, but, owing to the French railway necessity noted, and the other considerations we have mentioned, France stands more in her own light than does Spain in not being conciliatory. Yet that is not the only reason why her domineering and greedy attitude places her relatively to the greater disadvantage, and is calculated, unless abandoned, to render her an obstruction in her own path. More vital and more far-reaching interests may be involved in the matter of a settlement than the specific ones of France and Spain. The situation may become the grave concern of all Europe. So long as an empassé obtains and France's present demands for virtual Spanish subervience to her dictates—with the resultant accentuation of resentment on both sides—are pitted against Spanish obstinacy and sensitiveness, Morocco is almost inevitably likely to continue to be the fruitful source of European intrigue and the cause of unrest in the chancelleries of the great powers. There will ever be the menace of the reopening of the whole Moroccan issue, with the attendant possibilities of a trial of conclusions at arms, such as was averted through the Franco-German rapprochement.

In that event, France's being the greater obligation to eliminate Morocco as a danger spot to the peace of Europe, she can not but be held to the greater responsibility for the final outcome, as affecting the other powers, and, consequently, she cannot but be called upon to pay the heaviest toll. It is this aspect of the case, at the last, however, that promises to solve the problem in a peaceful and satisfactory way by some of the powers serving notice on France that she will not be allowed to make good her threat. Already there are signs that such a movement is contemplated, with Great Britain in the lead as champion of Spain's cause under the international agreement. There are signs of purpose to save France from herself and Europe from convulsion by bringing to bear on the former pressure that will force her to reason, and what appears to be the just, not to say honorable, course as embodied in keeping faith no less with Spain than with the parties to the international covenant.

THE PATENT MONOPOLY PERIL.

Nothing could better illustrate the quick responsiveness of representative government to the will of the people than the promptness displayed by Congress in seeking to devitalize the recent celebrated patent decision of the Federal Supreme Court. As soon as Chief Justice White, in his able dissenting opinion, had shown the need of putting on the safety valve, Congress began to consider legislation restricting the monopolistic powers of the patentee conferred by the decision of a majority of the court. There is no question that Congress can apply an efficacious remedy. It will, by early action, prevent the legalization of a most serious abuse.

Under the decision in Dick v. Henry, the holder of a patent may absolutely dictate not only the prices, but the condition of sale and use of the patented article. That deprives the public of all protection. Under such a condition, monopoly in a patented idea or thing tends to establish a series of far-reaching acts against the public welfare. The case might come up in which not only the primary rights of freedom of buying and selling, but also the rights of the individual in more personal acts, might be suspended.

The decision nullifies in fact the inhibition of the Sherman antitrust act against restraint of trade, and causes the government to be unable to enforce the Federal statute in some respects. It makes the trust problem more complex, for, through the ownership of patent rights, it would seem that an industrial or trading combination may follow with impunity a general business policy not permitted to concerns of other classes.

The patent system was established to protect the inventor. It allowed him a special privilege by creating a special kind of private property in ideas, and assuring him opportunities to turn them to his own profit. Yet today many large corporations combine without compensation their employees' inventions. Others prevent the adoption of new ideas and methods by the purchase of patents which may mean competition or cheapening of prices.

What is a patent but a new truth? Has any one a right to profit by the discovery of a truth which should be for the world's use? Is it right to monopolize an instrumentality for the betterment of mankind? We would not deprive the inventor of all reward; but Congress should revise our patent system by the rule of reason.

Were the patent system abolished entirely, men would still invent. Invention is an inevitable fact. Thousands of years ago Solomon said: "Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions." True then, true to-day, and true forever; man will always invent.

SYMPATHY FOR PUBLIC SERVANT.

The sudden illness of John J. Lynch, of the Council, is a cause for regret and concern to the entire community, for whose good he has labored for so many years. Expressions of appreciation for his intelligent, earnest and public-spirited efforts for the advancement of his native city are mingled with those of sincere sympathy with him in his present suffering. The senior representative from Jefferson Ward has achieved prominence among his fellow Councilmen and his fellow citizens by the fearless pursuit of the best ideals of a public servant. His work in advocating and helping to make possible the new Administrative Board, that will become a part of the city government in January of the coming year, showed breadth of view and a deep interest in the efficient and economical conduct of Richmond's affairs. Beyond his own accomplishments, he has served as an example of the type of public official to be sought for.

His work has been valuable and he cannot be easily spared. His place could not be readily filled. It is to be hoped that his sickness will be speedily followed by restored health, and that he will soon return to the execution of those duties to which he devoted himself with ability and wisdom. Meanwhile, what consolation the sympathy and good wishes of friends may bring him, he may be certain of receiving in full measure.

HOW WOMEN VOTE.

Recent elections on the Pacific coast have furnished some interesting evidence as to how women actually vote when granted the suffrage in municipal elections. The results at Seattle and Los Angeles seem to show that the inclusion of women in the electorate does not mean giving up to government to silly hysteria or mere momentary sentiment. In both contests the female voters have displayed solid conservative qualities, clear-cut convictions as to the righteousness of both men and measures. They have shown unexpected qualities of constructive statesmanship, joined to a paramount aim for moral and civic cleanliness. In Los Angeles they voted down the Socialist program, even at a time of morbid excitement and extreme radicalism. In Seattle they voted down the single tax proposal and defeated the former Mayor. Each of these proves that woman, by her natural instincts, is a strong conservative factor in public affairs. She does not run easily after innovation and untried remedies. Her interest is in the permanence of institutions under which she can attain her own high ends.

The power of discrimination between a good man and the dubious measures he stands for was markedly demonstrated. Cotterill, whom they elected as Mayor of Seattle, advocated both prohibition and single tax. The latter is a complicated economic program, the merits of which are not settled. It was defeated. Yet its advocate was elected, apparently on the straight moral issue that he stood for a clean town. The New York Evening Post points out editorially "that to the women belongs the credit of saving the city from the disgrace of re-electing as Mayor the man whom the city itself had recalled because of his running a 'wide open' town." The illogical sex, guided by moral sentiment, kept the rest of the voters from reversing their own logic. The desire to foster clean living conditions for themselves and their children outweighed all lesser considerations of expediency. It is too soon to urge these results as conclusive proofs that women are always going to vote right. But if the entrance into politics of wives and mothers does make for a higher moral standard in politics, strong arguments will have to be produced to discount the material benefits so obtained.

Almost time to stop wearing straw hats.

Why is it that a fat woman always buys a seat in the middle of the row?

It might be a good plan to get up a posse to apprehend criminally careless automobilists, who, driven by cowardice, escape into the night and leave a stricken victim, just as other moral weaklings escape to the mountains. But it takes some nerve to shoot a man; none at all to run him down with a powerful machine in the dark.

We don't cure it if it does snow. We shall meet it with the calm of despair.

A librarian, by name Minerva, read 6,000 novels in thirty-four years, or an average of one every other day. The inside of this woman's head must have been one of the strangest places imaginable. But by living after the third thousand she proved again that fiction is not so strange as truth.

No wonder the Wilkes-Barre gentleman who ate sixty-four raw eggs at one meal is crowing.

Suffrage is one of the words we could do without ever hearing again.

On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

Echo Answers "Where?"
Where, O where, is the old grandma
Who used to love to sit
Around the fireside all day long
And knit and knit and knit?
Where, O where, is the good old man
Who used to light his pipe
With a coal of fire from the kitchen
stove?
Of the old east-iron type?
Where, O where, are the good old
songs?
Our mothers used to sing?
Where, O where, is the sulphur dope
She gave us in the spring?
Where are the good old pumpkin pies
And the games we used to play?
"Old Spat-em-out," "Post-office," too,
"Hunt Cole" and "Pull-away"?
Where is the truck strap father had
Saved up out in the shed?
Where is the good old scrubbing brush
That ma used on our head?
Where is the good old kitchen pump
That froze up every night?
Where is the good old huskin' bee
That was our chief delight?
Where are the joys that once we knew,
Joy as a day so rare?
Where are the years that have flown
so fast?
And echo answers: "Where?"

Caught on the Fly.
Wu Ting Fang says there are 400,000,000 Democrats in China. But they are not in a position to do either Wilson or Harmon any good.

A man at Perry, Mich., has been found guilty of stealing a polecat. There are times when circumstantial evidence cannot be refuted.

A nifty present for a friend this year is a nice, new, fresh egg.
A Georgia negro was hanged in the opera house. It would seem as though the burnt cork minstrels are running a awful chance in that locality.

Abdul Hamid has been taken back to Constantinople to die. Constantinople, by the way, is one of the best known places in which to die.

A man can get a hair cut in London for 3 cents, but London barbers do not throw in so much conversation as the American barbers.

Kipling gets a dollar a word for all that he writes. This is a good thing all around, for he doesn't have to write much.

Unhangers.

The ash pile looms up in the yard with true majestic grace.
Tomato cans are now revealed and litter up the place.
The sink's waste pipe's thawed out these winter, we have the plumber's bill.
The kitchen floor leaks as of yore, and gentle purling fill.
The front yard is baldheaded and the back yard is a sight.
No longer do we cover the geraniums at night.

Grandpa has shifted underwear and donned the flannel kind.
He's never made a mistake in this, that we can call to mind.

Augustus has been measured for his seven-dollar suit.
And Willie's got a hole upon his nose that fits like a glove.

The yearly catalogue of seeds has been left at the door.
And father's making garden in his mind, just as of yore.

The atmosphere of home is flavored with your ointment, and
Grandpa has had his hair cut and is looking simply divine.

There'll soon be floating on the breeze the emblem of back beer.
And it seems almost certain now romantic spring is here.

Some Household Inefficiencies.

"O, thunder! Why did you let the driver set that case of beer right up against the furnace?"

"There you go again, trying to pull those ticks with a pair of shears, and still women want to vote."

"Henry, on the level, if you dump those pine ashes in my cut glass jelly bowl again, I'll go home to mother."

"Who in . . . Who left that work-basket full of needles on the stairs for me to step in with my bare feet?"

"O, sure. You can stand and talk into that telephone all day while I hold my head off trying. And out where you put my pearl shirt studs. Ain't I of no consequence around here?"

"Take it from me, Percival, if you don't stop coming home every evening smelling of spoiled herring and back beer, there's going to be a divorce in this family."

Voice of the People

England's Constitutional Suffragette.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir,—In your editorial of March 19 you called the attention of your readers to the fact of an important anti-suffrage meeting held at the Albert Hall, in London—a meeting notable in "the composition of the platform," leading men of both political parties being amongst the speakers. May I not call attention to another fact, which has been quite ignored by the American press, namely, that where one anti-suffrage meeting is held, thousands of constitutional suffragist meetings are held all over Great Britain, quite as notable for the character of the audience and the speakers on the platform.

LILA MEADE VALENTINE.

March 21, 1912.

Suggests Harmon Organization.
To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir,—In view of the activity which is now manifesting itself among presidential candidates and their friends, it seems appropriate to the writer to make to the supporters of Governor Harmon the suggestion which follows:

It is time for organization to begin. The friends of Harmon in this country should come together and look each other in the face, and devise what is to be the final triumph of "right over might," in the ultimate freedom of women.

In former times it was the custom for the party to convene and make one caucus—for the good of the party. Now, however, are usually broken up into many little caucuses, and a fight ensues for the nomination in which the safest and most available candidate is by no means the favorite, unless his friends have forestalled the demagogic efforts of self-seekers. Perhaps, therefore, though some of us would prefer sending delegates to the convention without personal ties and with open minds, yet this admirable system has passed away. Candidates should make the final triumph of "right over might," in the ultimate freedom of women, their motto.

Such being the case, Governor Harmon's friends should not sit idly by and permit the enterprising and industrious of other followings to put a hedge around the delegates, when, perhaps the majority may really be with the conservative element. Harmon has

THE HEN IS BEING PROPOSED AS A BETTER NATIONAL EMBLEM THAN THE EAGLE.

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright 1912, by John T. McCutcheon.)



platform as the one quoted by you! Distinguished men and women of all parties, dignitaries of the church, the army and the navy, as well as Cabinet members, have spoken at them in behalf of the enfranchisement of women. The constitutional suffragists are working for that cause. The militant suffragettes are a small minority of the whole and are not included in the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, which under the leadership of Mrs. Henry Fawcett, widow of an ex-Cabinet minister and a woman of great dignity and exceptional ability has conducted for many years a quiet, orderly, constitutional campaign for the cause. This campaign in its patient persistence of peaceful methods, after a generation of fruitless effort, presents an unparalleled example of restraint and self-control on the part of thousands of women, who feel very deeply the injustice and indignity of their disfranchisement, and who, in the past year have had to face not only the ordinary difficulties inherent in bringing about any reform, but a naked breach of honor on the part of the government in dealing with their bill. Nevertheless, they continue to pursue constitutional methods and have only recently passed resolutions expressly and emphatically condemning violence of any kind as a means of attaining the suffrage for women.

In a letter to the London Times of March 9, Mrs. Henry Fawcett, the president, has called the attention of the public to their official resolutions condemning the deplorable proceedings of the militant women and protesting against the use of violence in any form. She says that they long to show the women of England (like the women of other countries) can bring about an immensely important change in their political status, without doing the thing which is widely and emphatically condemned violence of any kind as a means of attaining the suffrage for women.

The women of Norway, Finland, Australia, New Zealand and our own suffragist States have gained their full political freedom without recourse to violence of any kind. They have also proven that they can exercise the franchise without producing confusion or violence of any sort whatever.

Therefore, we must regard the militant tactics, the deplorable violence of a small minority of English women, as a sporadic incident only in this great worldwide and peaceful movement. They are making the grave mistake of imitating the methods of 1832, who by wanton destruction of government buildings and other places, gave the signal, and the passage of the reform bill, which Parliament was holding up, just as the present woman's suffrage bill is being held up by a so-called liberal government.

But this nonviolent action on their part in no way affects the justice of their claim for the enfranchisement of women, nor do we suppose for one moment that any just man or woman in Virginia thinks that it does. One might as well say that the great principle of liberty on which our government rests is vitiated by the action of Russian men or women who resort to assassination to attain their demands of liberty, or that the righteousness of our cause in the American Revolution was nullified by the horrors of the French Revolution.

Indeed, I have written thus at length solely out of a desire to set right before the people of Virginia that splendid body of English women who, through long years of bitter discouragement, still retain their self-control, their patient courage, their unflinching faith in the final triumph of "right over might," in the ultimate freedom of women.

Such being the case, Governor Harmon's friends should not sit idly by and permit the enterprising and industrious of other followings to put a hedge around the delegates, when, perhaps the majority may really be with the conservative element. Harmon has

many friends here, as the writer knows by personal observation, and possesses elements of strength which may be easily guessed. All this, however, will go for nothing if at this critical time these friends simply remain friends, and do not become supporters; these elements of strength remain passive instead of becoming active.

Radicalism is not a need of the times. In other years the writer was in the forefront of the battle for legislation of a radical character. But those were the lean years, when the world was doing business on a falling market, and when the public conscience was less active than it has since become.

Now, on the contrary, the world is dealing on a rising market, and the public conscience, thanks to the majestic campaign of 1896, is in a healthy condition. The need, therefore, of the times is conservatism.

The writer even now believes in radical action, but stops at the recall of judges, and that still more horrible doctrine, the recall of judicial decisions by popular majority.

In matters of legislation, the making of law, the establishing of fixed rules of conduct, in choosing the Governors by whom they are to be ruled, in all these things the voice of the people is the voice of God. But in the administration of justice, in the deciding of particular disputes between individuals, the voice of the people is the voice of the devil.

The radical is a much hated, much abused man. And he deserves it all, but for one thing. If his efforts are to lead down for the purpose of building up, then there is a justification for his efforts. In the recall of judges and of judicial decisions, there is no chance for a constructive result; there is nothing but destruction, pure and simple. You tell the loftiest, the oldest race, the patriarchs of the forest, but you raise no buildings from their fallen fragments.

The bold, we might say impudent, efforts which are being made to destroy the judicial system, the ancient palladium of our rights, make it necessary for thoughtful men to take counsel. Personally the writer would prefer to remain in the background, but as no one seems to be disposed to move in the matter, and as some stars seem to be necessary, this suggestion is made. A good many of us will be glad to follow somebody's lead, to sign a call, or meet and confer, and so do what may be advisable. So let some one who may be in closer touch with Governor Harmon's friends in other places, give the signal, and we feel sure quite a strong contingent will rally around the standard.

CHARLES M. WALLACE.

Hum Fuit.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:
Sir,—Having read "A Jeffersonian" letter in your valued edition of this date regarding a separate college for women, "in a remote corner of the State," we should be pleased to read an answer to his diatribe in "recurring beans upon the university lawn." Is the "youth who stands 'neath the shadow of that great university of a homer or livy clasped close to his side, and dreams of troy, and not to make," a proper argument against the establishment of a co-ordinate college for women, if so, why?

Richmond. CO-ORDINATE.

Appreciation of the Living.

Prize now thy living friend. Perhaps his worth Thou'lt better understand when he is dead.

Laud we our buried heroes? It is well, For what we say cannot disturb their rest, Nor envy at their praise move other minds.

Since they are gone nor can be rivals more, The cold neglect with which we passed them by, Perchance in age or pinching poverty, May find some fit atonement in a glided tomb.

Or panegyric which can cost us naught, And sounding phrase which comes from tardy lips May tell the world that if we once forgot

God help us now To prize our comforts more, to love the friends We have; while yet we may to catch the words Experience can teach, to comfort years, Encourage struggling youth, give help That when we sorrow o'er the loss that comes And testify our sense of service past, No bitter consciousness of sad neglect May mingle with our tears. God help us all!

LEONARD COX. "Leaves From the Wayside" Charlotte Courthouse.

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